

St. Johns Stake of Zion



St. Johns, Arizona

November 21, 1939

Hon. Marriner S. Eccles
Governor of Federal Reserve Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

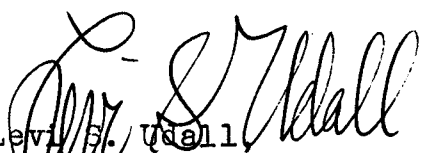
The Arizona Republic of Phoenix recently carried the attached editorial and it so well expresses my own views that I hope you will not be offended in my forwarding the same to you.

We L.D.S. people in Arizona were greatly pleased with your appointment by President Roosevelt. None of us at that time ever dreamed that you would go so far to the left as you have in advising the President on his crazy lend-spend program, which it appears will bankrupt the country. As the editorial indicates, we know that these principles are foreign to the teachings of the Church to which you belong and are absolutely contrary to the principles taught by Brigham Young, the great pioneer.

I am sure that the fortune which you inherited was never made by trying to spend more than one made.

It is probably expecting too much of you to change your financial philosophy. However, I have ceased to be proud of the fact that you are a member of the Mormon Church, and I only hope that you will see the error of your way before you lead the country into further difficulties.

Respectfully yours,


Levi S. Udall,
Stake President.

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Arizona Republic, "The Repudiation of At Least Two Patriotic and Helpful Experts," November 1939.

December 11, 1939.

Mr. Levi S. Udall, Stake President,
St. Johns Stake of Zion,
St. Johns, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Udall:

Your letter of November 21 enclosing an editorial from the Arizona Republic of Phoenix arrived here during my absence in the west.

Ordinarily I would ignore the type of editorial you enclosed since it reflects such ignorance of the facts as to make hopeless any effort to challenge the conclusions. But since you have taken the trouble to write me of your own endorsement of the editorial respecting its allusions to the economic teachings of the leaders of the Church, I thought I would take the trouble to reply. You refer to the President's program as a "crazy lend-spend program", language similar to that used by Senator Byrd of Virginia, who has referred to the Administration's economic and financial measures as "fiscal insanity". For that reason I think my best reply is to enclose copies of a letter which I sent Senator Byrd under date of December 23, 1938, and also a radio address of January 23, 1939, in answer to a preceding one of the Senator's.

With further reference to the teachings of the Church, I have no quarrel, in fact I heartily endorse the principles of thrift and economy as related to the individual or to the family. It is sheer ignorance, however, to assume that what is good medicine for the individual is infallibly good medicine for the community or the nation. I might also add that the early leaders of the Church, including Joseph Smith and Bingham Young, could never have attained their leadership if they had been content to listen to the smug ideas and established traditions of the vast majority of the people of their time. While I have no desire to engage in any preachment, it seems to me the Mormon people should be the last ones to follow precepts simply because they are voiced by the majority of their fellow beings. I am well aware of the pronouncements of the present Church leaders respecting the Government's attempts, inadequate as they may be, to ameliorate the problem of unemployed millions of our people and unemployed billions of our savings. And to put it mildly and to return the expression used in your letter, I have long since ceased to be proud of the Church leaders for their economic and financial utterances.

Should you take the time to read the enclosures and to think about the problems discussed therein, I feel confident that you will not be so satisfied to apply the economics of a frontier economy to the complicated industrial and financial structure of our country today as well as of the world at large.

Yours sincerely,

M. S. Eccles,
Chairman.

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